

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) No, Sir. The matter is still being investigated by the police.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(c) The matter is being investigated by the police authorities.

Labour strike in Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited

940. SHRI K. MALLANNA :

SHRI C JANARDHANAN :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any labour strike in the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, Kerala, during May-June this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor:

(c) the number of days this Undertaking remained closed and the total loss caused due to the closure of the factory; and

(d) the steps taken to settle the issues and prevent such labour trouble in future.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) :

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The employees went on strike with a view mainly to enforcing their demands against the management in matters like production bonus, staffing of the IVth Stage plants, annual bonus, promotion and recruitment of dependents of employees, etc. The immediate cause for the strike was the inability of the management to accept the demands of the Workers' Unions that no action should be taken against the persons who had shut down the IVth Stage ammonia plant without authority.

(c) The Udyogmandal Division of the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore, Limited remained closed with effect from 9-5-72 to 2-7-72 i.e. for 55 days, resulting in an estimated production loss of Rs. 4.5 crores.

(d) The disputes have been referred to the Industrial Tribunal for adjudication. Simultaneously, tripartite discussions between the management, the Unions and the State Govt. are under way to negotiate a settlement and to evolve a method to avoid recurrence of such strikes.

Rescheduling of Debt from Foreign Countries

941. SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) Whether India has been able to come to an equitable settlement in case of debt repayment burden arising from past loans from friendly countries,

(b) if so, what are the main hurdles that come in the way of repayment; and

(c) how the large payments had arisen?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). India had brought to the notice of the World Bank and the Member-countries of the Aid-India Consortium the burden of debt-service payments as a whole and the consequent diminution in the resources available for economic development. The question of debt relief for the years 1972-73 and 1973-74 continues to be under discussion by the Members of the Aid-India Consortium.

(c) The large debt-service payments have arisen as a result of the hard terms on which aid had been made available in the earlier years.

Permanent Finance Commission

942. SHRI RAM PRAKASH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to set up Finance Commission on permanent footing after the terms of sixth Finance Commission is completed; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Government are not convinced of the need for a permanent Finance Commission.